IN THE CLAIMS:

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1   A device for recording an image including a geographical location, related descriptive

2   text and/or environmental conditions in a medium, comprising:

3   a)   means for forming an electronic image of an object of interest in digital form;

4   b)   means for determining a geographical location of the image in digital form;

5   c)   means for storing the digital image and the geographical location thereof in a

6   memory;

7   d)   means for accessing descriptive text of a plurality of objects of interest;

8   e)   means for selecting and associating the descriptive text with the image;

9   f)   means for recording the image, related geographical location and descriptive text

10   in the medium; and

11   g)   means for communicating the recorded image with or without related

12   geographical location and descriptive text to a network.

1   2.   The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for forming an electronic image further

2   comprises:

3   h)   data processing means for receiving and converting optical information of the

4   object of interest into compressed digital form for storage in the memory.

1   3.   The device of Claim 1 wherein means for determining the geographical location of the

2   image further comprises:

3   i)   a GPS interface and processing logic unit linked to at least one space satellite for

4   converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates in digital form for storage in the

5   memory and indicative of the image geographical location.

1   4.   The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for accessing descriptive texts of a plurality of

2   objects of interest further comprises:

3   j)   an interface to a database responsive to a user for selecting the stored descriptive

4   text related to the object of interest recorded in the digital image.

1   5.   The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for recording the image, geographical location

2   and descriptive text further comprises:

3   k)   means for accessing the memory and correlating the digital image with the

4   geographic location;

5   l)   means for correlating the descriptive text with the object of interest and recording

6   in a medium.

1   6.   The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   m)   environmental sensing means for collecting and storing environmental conditions

3   related to the image for recording in the medium.

1   7.   The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   n)   a server in the network for storing descriptive text of objects of interest

1   8.   The device of Claim 7 further comprising:

2   o)   wireless means for connecting and providing to the network the geographic

3   location and conditions of the object of interest stored in the memory for processing and

4   recording in a medium by the network.

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1   9.   The device of Claim 7 further comprising

2   p)   a terminal coupled to the network and responsive to a user to obtain, display and

3   record the geographical location and descriptive text in the medium.

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5   10.   The device of Claim 1 wherein said means of communicating includes wireless

6   communication.

1   11.   The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   q)   a terminal coupled to the network and responsive to a user input to obtain and

3   display and record the stored image of the object of interest with or without geographical

4   location and descriptive text in the medium.

1   12.   The device of Claim 11 further comprising:

2   r)   means in the terminal for editing the image to include the related geographical

3   location and descriptive text.

1   13.   In a system including an image-collecting device coupled to a remote data processing

2   system and a workstation via a network, a method for recording an image including a

3   geographical location, and/or environmental conditions in a medium, comprising the steps of

4   a)   forming an electronic image of an object of interest in digital form in the image

5   collecting device;

6   b)   determining a geographical location of the image in digital form;

7   c)   capturing and storing the digital image and the geographical location thereof in a

8   memory;

9   d)   storing descriptive text of a plurality of objects of interest in a remote processing

10   system or workstation;

11   e)   selecting and associating the descriptive text with the image; and

12   f)   Recording the image and descriptive text in the medium.

1   14.   The method of Claim 13 wherein the means for forming an electronic image further

2   comprises the step of:

3   g)   receiving and converting optical information of the object of interest into

4   compressed digital form.

1   15.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2   h)   converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates in digital form indicative

3   of the image geographical location.

1   16.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of

2   i)   selecting the stored descriptive text related to the object of interest recorded in

3   the digital image.

1   17.   The method of Claim 13 wherein the step of determining geographical location includes

2   determining latitude and longitude.

1   18.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2   j)   accessing the remote processing system or workstation and correlating and

3   recording the digital image with the geographical location, and descriptive text associated with

4   the object of interest in a medium.

1   19.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2   k)   collecting and storing environmental conditions related to the image for recording

3   in the medium.

1   20.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2   l)   connecting and providing to a network the image, geographical location, and

3   environmental conditions of the object of interest stored in the image-collecting device. for

4   processing and recording in a medium by the network.

1   21.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of

2   m)   storing thumbnail images related to objects of interest in the remote data

3   processing system according to location coordinates.

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5   22.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

6   n)   transmitting location coordinates of an object of interest to the remote data

7 processing system, and

8   0)   receiving a thumbnail image related to the location coordinates from the remote

9 data processing system; and recording the related thumbnail image in the medium.

1   23.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2   p)   editing the image to include the related geographical location and descriptive text.

1   24.   An article of manufacture:

2   A program medium, executable in a computer system, for recording an image including a

3 related descriptive text and/or environmental conditions in a medium, comprising

4   a)   program instruction in the medium forming an electronic image of an object of

5 interest in digital form

6   b)   program instruction in the medium determining a geographical location of the

7 image in digital form;

8   c)   program instruction in the medium capturing and storing the digital image and the

9 geographical location thereof in an image-collecting device;

10   d)   program instruction in the medium for accessing descriptive text of a plurality of

11 objects of interest in a remote data processing system or workstation;

12   e)   program instruction in the medium enabling selection and association of

13 the descriptive text with the image; and

14   f)   program instruction in the medium recording the image and descriptive text in the

15   medium.

1   25.   The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising

2   g)   program instructions for converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates

3   in digital form indicative of the image geographical location for storage in an image-collecting

4   device.

1   26.   The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2   h)   program instruction in the medium accessing the remote processing system or

3   workstation and correlating and recording the digital image with the geographical location,

4   descriptive text of the object of interest in a medium.

1   27.   The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2   i)   program instruction in the medium collecting and storing environmental

3   conditions related to the image for recording in the medium

1   28.   The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising

2   j)   program instruction in the medium for accessing thumbnail images of objects of

3   interest in the remote data processing system according to location coordinates.

1   29.   The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2   k)   program instruction in the medium obtaining and inserting a thumbnail of an

3   object of interest according to location coordinates and storing in a medium.

1   30.   A system for incorporating images in an electronic message, comprising:

2   a)   a terminal for generating electronic messages;

3   b)   means for obtaining location coordinates;

4   c)   means for accessing images stored in a network according to location coordinates;

5   d)   means for providing obtained location coordinates to the network and obtaining

6   images from the network according to the provided location coordinates; and

7   e)   means for incorporating in an electronic message at least one of the images

8   obtained from the network.

1   31.   The system of Claim 30 wherein location coordinates provided to the network are the

2   location coordinates of the terminal creating the message.

1   32.   The system of Claim 30 wherein the location coordinates are established at the

2   completion of the creation of the electronic message.

1   33.   The system of Claim 30 wherein the location coordinates are established at the start of

2   the creation of the electronic message.

1   34.   The system of Claim 30 wherein the terminal is a laptop or personal digital assistant or

2   other computer device.

1   35.   The system of Claim 30 wherein the terminal is linked to the network by a wired or

2   wireless connection.

1   36.   A method, comprising the steps of:
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3   a)   generating electronic messages at a location;

4   b)   obtaining location coordinates;

5   c)   accessing images stored in a network according to the location coordinates;

6   d)   providing obtained location coordinates to the network and obtaining images from

7   the network according to the provided location coordinates; and

8   e)   incorporating in an electronic message at least one of the images obtained from

9   the network.

1   37.   The method of Claim 36 wherein the obtained images are provided as part of advertizing.

2   38.   The method of Claim 36 further comprising the step of:

3   d)   offering the images in a prioritized manner based on the amount of payment

4   associated with each image.

1   39.   The method of Claim 36 further comprising the step of:

2   e)   providing the sender of an electronic message an incentive to include an

3   advertising image in the message.

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